



ESTABLISHED 1659

## CITY OF NORWICH CONNECTICUT

### **NORWICH HUMAN SERVICES**

Adult & Family Services—Youth & Family Services—Rose City Senior Center  
Phone (860) 823-3778 Fax(860) 823-3793

80 Broadway  
Norwich, CT 06360

### Governor's Proposed Budget FY18-FY-19

### Written Testimony- Appropriations Hearing

Department of Housing  
Friday, February 17, 2017

Senator Osten, Senator Formica, Representative Walker, Representative Ziobron, and Members of the Committee, thank you for reading my testimony today on the important investments through the Department of Housing to support efforts to end homelessness in CT.

The current budget proposal **preserves funding** for critical housing and homelessness services and supports, including:

**The DOH Housing/Homeless Services line item, \$73.7 million in FY 18 and \$78.3 million in FY 19,** for frontline housing/homeless services, outreach, emergency shelters, and the Rental Assistance Program (RAP), which are essential to aid those who have fallen into homelessness and move them quickly to permanent housing. The Rental Assistance Program funds the rental subsidies which make Supportive Housing possible. Supportive Housing continues to be the most effective housing model to assist people experiencing chronic homelessness and is proven to cut public system costs by up to 70%.

**The Homeless Youth line item:** Youth outreach services, crisis housing for youth, and housing services and supports are essential services to transition youth from crisis to stability.

Please do all that you can to ensure these line items are preserved. Our investments are working: numbers of those experiencing homelessness are going down year after year. Connecticut was the first state in the nation recognized by the federal government for ending chronic homelessness among Veterans; and one of only three states to end all homelessness among veterans.

The HUD 2015 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report showed a drop of nearly 50 % in chronic homelessness between 2014 and 2015 Connecticut- the largest reduction in any state. In December 2016, CT matched all chronically homeless individuals to a housing resource.



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The 2016 Point-in-Time (PIT) showed the lowest number of people experiencing homelessness in CT, a fourth year of decline and a 13% decrease since the first count in 2007. Your thoughtful investments are working to end this problem in CT.

Sincerely,

Lee-Ann Gomes  
Director  
Norwich Human Services